

*September 27, 1856.*

MR. LEA, Vice President, in the Chair.

Letters were read—

From the Canadian Institute, dated Toronto, C. W., July 25th, 1856, transmitting the Canadian Journal for 1856, and desiring exchange. Referred to the Committee on Proceedings.

From F. V. Hayden, dated Fort Union, July 10th, 1856, acknowledging his election as Correspondent.

From B. F. Shumard, Secretary of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, dated July 30th, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of copies of the Journal and Proceedings of the Academy, and enclosing a resolution of thanks adopted by the Academy at St. Louis.

From the Boston Society of Natural History, dated June 26th, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy, (Vol. 8, No. 1, Title and Index,) and the Journal, (N. S. Vol. 3, part 2.)

From the Librarian of the British Museum, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy, (Vol. 6, Nos. 7, 12, and Vol. 7, No. 1.)

From F. A. Sauvalle, dated Havana, June 2, 1856, transmitting a collection of shells.

From the Royal Society of Sciences of Liege, dated Bonn, April 20th, 1856, transmitting their Memoirs, acknowledged this evening.

From the Natural History Union of Prussian Rhineland and Westphalia, dated March 24th, 1856, transmitting their publications acknowledged this evening.

Dr. Leidy read a paper entitled, "Notice of some Remains of Extinct Vertebrated Animals, by Joseph Leidy, M. D.," which was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. T. B. Wilson, Dr. Le Conte, and Mr. Haldeman.

Mr. Ashmead stated that, he had observed during the past summer an unusual scarcity of marine algæ at Beesley's Point, some species usually found in shallow waters having entirely disappeared. Mr. A. attributed this to the intense cold of last winter causing the shallow bays and ponds to be frozen to the bottom. When the ice broke up, the seaweed adhering to it would be carried away. Whole beds of planted oysters were thus lost. The *Heterodon Platyrhynchus*, generally very abundant, was this year almost extinct. Dr. Leidy stated that he had been informed by the fishermen, that immense numbers of crabs were destroyed by the cold, so that this season they were quite scarce. Mr. Haldeman had observed numbers of evergreens killed by the winter's cold.